

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for the meeting of January 7, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Ted Packard, and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Bobby Mac, Pete Howard, Allison Fletcher, Matt Devecchi, Paolo Marinelli, and Jeff Roth were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

*The minutes from the December meeting were accepted with minor changes.

Update on ABAC reappointments. All current Board members were reappointed, and we still have one opening. Jeff Roth told us why he would like to become a member of the ABAC Board. Jack explained the process that Jeff would have to go through. The Board then discussed the merits of Jeff's nomination, which will need approval by the Board of Selectmen.

*The vote to recommend Jeff's nomination was unanimous.

Update on Minuteman Bikeway Banners in Arlington Center. Jack presented us with pictures and samples of possible new bikeway banners. One vendor suggested two possible banner materials, a thick vinyl or wood board. The cost for the banners would be between \$7,000 and 10,000 depending on the material chosen. We also discussed possibly lighting the banner at night. We decided against the lighting and thought we should get a few competing bids. Paolo suggested that we should make sure that emergency vehicles would still have access to the path (with clearance under the banner signs).

Update on planning for the ABAC Winter Social. The Whittemore-Robbins House has been reserved for the social but will be more expensive this year than in the past. Jack confirmed Nicole Friedman as the main speaker and suggested that we do an additional slide show on the plowing of the path. The rest of us thought that Nicole is likely to get a lot of questions so we should make sure that there is sufficient time for Q&A.

Update on future bike-rack sites (related to state grant funding). Jack suggested we photograph potential sites for bike-racks so we are sure that the racks will fit. Paolo asked us to consider submitting the locations to the Town Commission on Disabilities.

Discussion of pilot plowing project on Minuteman Bikeway. Scott gave a review of the condition of the path so far this winter. The usage at the Alewife end is heavily pedestrian with moderate bike traffic. The usage has gone up for both pedestrians and bicycles. Jeff also gave us a report on the same topic with much the same conclusions.

Pete reminded us that, in order for this service to become permanent, it must be a line item in the DPW budget. Jack asked once again if we will take a position on plowing the path. We decided to wait until the end of the pilot to take a position. We also discussed the possibility of extending the pilot another year in order to obtain better statistics. We all thought it would enhance the value of the plowing to get Lexington to participate. Pete told us that if we want the plowing to be a permanent service, we should talk to the Finance Committee this winter.

Preliminary discussion of the BIKE-Arlington Tour (May event). The date and time for this year's tour will be Sunday, May, 18 at 9:30. We discussed using the same route as last year. Or perhaps ride the same route backwards? We decided to use same the route again.

Brief discussion of ABAC Town Report for last year. Jack will send in a similar report for this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.